

S/N 09/884,795

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	SCHERER ET AL.	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	09/884,795	Group Art Unit:	3723
Filed:	JUNE 19, 2001	Docket No.:	3616.177USI2
Title:	BLOCK SPLITTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD		

PATENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

DEC 21 2001

RECEIVED

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 8, 2001.

By: *[Signature]*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, Applicants have included copies of copending U.S. patent application serial numbers 09/330,879, 09/691,864, 29/143,748, 29/143,998 and 29/143,999.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. German Utility Patent No. 1 950 950 was cited as being an "A" reference in foreign application No. PCT/US00/14180 which is a counterpart to U.S. application serial number 09/330,879.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or

otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

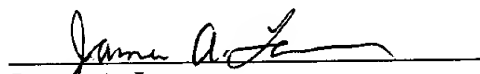
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Date: November 8, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 322-5300


James A. Larson
Reg. No. 40,443
JAL:KTP:PSTdb

GP 3723

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SCHERER ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN
Serial No.: 09/884,795 Group Art Unit: 3723
Filed: JUNE 19, 2001 Docket: 3616.177USI2
Title: BLOCK SPLITTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 8, 2001.

By: *Theresa M. [Signature]*

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 76 Reference(s)
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: *James A. Larson*
Name: James A. Larson
Reg. No.: 40,443
JLarson:KTP:PSTdb



(PTO TRANSMITTAL - GENERAL)